

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: December 14, 2006

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**GOV. EASLEY WAGERS WITH MASSACHUSETTS GOV. ROMNEY THAT
APPALACHIAN STATE WILL WIN NCAA DIVISION 1-AA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley and Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney today agreed to a “friendly wager” on the outcome of tomorrow night’s NCAA Division 1-AA football championship between the Appalachian State University Mountaineers and the University of Massachusetts Minutemen. At stake is a box of Ashe County cheeses along with a basket of North Carolina treats including summer sausage, Blue Ridge Mountain dried fruit mix and some Cheerwine. Romney has countered with a New England Lobster Clambake with all the trimmings.

“I am looking forward to sampling the lobsters and clam chowder that Gov. Romney will be sending, but not as much as I will savor watching Appalachian State’s football team take their second consecutive national title,” said Easley. “The Mountaineers have thrilled fans with their explosive play this year, setting a school-record 13 wins in a row. They have worked hard and I am proud to have them represent their school and North Carolina.”

“I’m sure the Mountaineers will put up a good fight, but I have every confidence that our Minutemen will have things well in hand,” said Romney. “With the holidays fast approaching, it’s nice to know a basket of North Carolina delicacies will soon be on its way to Boston.”

A year ago, Appalachian State won its first national football title with a come-from-behind victory over the Northern Iowa Panthers 21-16. This is UMass’ third trip to the national championship game. The Minutemen, 13-1, beat Georgia Southern (a team Appalachian State defeated in double overtime this year 27-20) in 1998 to claim the national title.

The Mountaineers play the Minutemen in Finley Stadium in Chattanooga on Friday, Dec. 15 at 8:00 p.m. ESPN2 will televise the contest.

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